

# Hundreds Pay Final Respects to C. Earl Conner

## DIVERS HUNT PILOT'S BODY

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**LOCAL FLYER . . .** Navy divers yesterday continued the search to recover the body of test pilot Albert W. Conover Jr., of Seaside Ranchos, who was killed in a highly-secret experimental plane crash last Friday.

## Memorial Services Set for Pilot Of Top Secret Navy Plane Today

Ground swells and high winds yesterday hindered U. S. Navy divers in their five-day undersea search for the body of 28-year-old Albert W. Conover, Jr., 5454 Sharynne Lane, Seaside Ranchos. Conover and another test pilot, Charles E. Brown of Hawthorne, were killed last Friday when their Navy jet bomber, an experimental plane, plunged into the sea off El Segundo.

## School Promised Seaside Rancho By September

A new school to serve Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos by September was the promise given the residents of those communities Monday night by Emmett Ingram, assistant superintendent of schools.

Ingram made the promise during a "question and answer" session with property owners of the two subdivisions held in the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse.

Also present at the meeting were Mrs. Grace Wright, Mrs. Evelyn L. Carr and George E. Thatcher, all board members.

"We think it very possible to get the school under way by April 15," Ingram said, "if there are no unforeseen delays." The district has the right, he explained, to take over uncompleted buildings and use them for school purposes if necessary.

Ingram was asked about "semi-permanent" buildings.

"Our architects are thinking of buildings with a life of from 20 to 25 years—approximately the same as our average houses," Ingram said. "They will be built on cement slabs, with frame and"

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## Horrors!!!

## Reporter Discovers Batman Is No Tea-Totaler; He Drinks, Yes Sir

This may be a shock to the comic-reading generation; Batman drinks COFFEE!

This choice bit of near-scandal that we know Drew Pearson would have given his typewriter to have uncovered first, came to light last week when a reporter for this newspaper personally witnessed the cape-decked, hooded character and his ever-present youthful companion Robin, drinking a cup of the caffeine-laden beverage on location at the wartime Alcoa plant on 190th street near West-ern avenue.

Batman (Bob Lowery) and Robin (Johnny Duncan, a graduate of Washington High School) were taking a "blow" between scenes of a 15-chapter serial which Columbia Pictures is filming among the warehouses and sheds at the former war plant.

With The Champion-Of-All-That-Is-Right and his pal, Defender-of-the-Weak, was Carl S. Warner, construction engineer for Columbia Steel. The steel firm is in the process of converting the old aluminum plant into a \$30,000,000 sheet rolling mill.

## Merchants Reach Agreement With Tidwell on '49 Contract

### Negotiators Hail Lasting Labor Accord

A sigh of relief from employers, clerks, and union officials was heard through the Harbor Area yesterday when it was announced that a contract between the Retail Clerks' Union and the employers had been signed at noon Wednesday.

It was announced jointly by Haskell Tidwell, secretary of Retail Clerks' Union No. 905, A. F. of L., and Captain L. E. Delaney, secretary of the Harbor Area Employers Council, that the arbitration clause, long a point of dispute, was settled to the satisfaction of both parties.

Al McCown, president of the H.A.E.C., said " . . . certain wage adjustments have been made for the coming year. Both sides, however, agreed that the clause relating to the wage increases could be reopened by either party on June 1. The present wage increase, and consideration for any future wage adjustments, would be based on the cost of living index."

Individual contracts have been mailed to each merchant operating with union personnel. A mimeographed letter, signed by both Tidwell and Delaney, stated the contract was agreeable to both parties and urged the merchants individual signatures on the approved document.

The area affected by the signing of this contract will cover the period from Feb. 1 of this year to Jan. 30 of 1950, includes Torrance, Lomita, San Pedro, Wilmington and Gardena.

Tidwell's and Delaney's statement said in part:

"It is not merely the signing of this contract but a genuine feeling exists between us that we have at least reached a point of understanding where we can work together harmoniously to bring trade and industry to the Harbor Area. We feel that any differences we may have in the future can be settled more easily over a conference table rather than by any other means."

President McCown stated: "I truly believe the contract to be a fair and equitable one—a situation which could not have come about without the cooperation given me by the members of the H.A.E.C. during these negotiations. I am thankful to all the members who cooperated to help bring our efforts to a peaceful conclusion."

"Our objective," McCown continued, "is to develop a sincere feeling of good will and understanding between the employer, and the union."



**WORDS OF ADVICE**—Whatever Boris Woolley is whispering to Delbert Vaughn, you can be sure it has something to do about being optimistic during the coming year. Vaughn is the new Optimist Club president; Woolley, the outgoing president. (Herald Photo).

## DELBERT VAUGHN WILL HEAD OPTIMIST CLUB

Delbert Vaughn, investment broker, was selected as president to guide the Torrance Optimist Club during its second year of existence at a meeting held last week at Daniel's Cafe.

The club is planning a dinner-dance on Feb. 26, at which time Vaughn and other newly elected officers will be installed. To be installed are: Cliff Graybehl, vice president; Harry Watkins, second vice president; Vern Lovelady, secretary, and Edward "Wink" Winkelbauer, treasurer.

Members of the board of directors who will be seated include: William Clinkenbeard, Ed. Schwartz, George Paltridge, Ray Richhart, and Boris Woolley, who is the outgoing club president.

## Tax Expert at Torrance City Hall March 1-4

Assistance with income tax questionnaires will be given residents of this community at the Torrance City Hall on Mar. 1, 2, 3 and 4, when a deputy will be here for the four days.

The deputy, Otto Jensen, will be available from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 4:30 p.m., according to notification received by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett from the Collector of Internal Revenue.

## Western Ave. 'Cut Through' Due in 30 Days

A bit of action by the city council last Tuesday night wound up the last roll of red tape and cleared the way for work to start on Western avenue—with in 30 days.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, speaking before the Lions Club Tuesday afternoon, stated that all that remained before construction could be started on the long-awaited development of the highway would be a resolution from the city council requesting their allotment of Motor Vehicle Funds from the county.

Six hours later this resolution was passed as a matter of routine business by the city fathers.

The resolution in substance requested the county to pay the city of Torrance \$112,500 due them as their share of the county allotment. This fund will be allocated to the City of Los Angeles which is clearing the titles to property lying in the path of the development and which is doing the actual engineering work on the project.

"Everything is ready to go on this project about which we have been talking for 20 years," Darby said, "except the resolution from the City of Torrance."

He said that this has been promised immediately.

Widening of Western avenue from 182nd street to Torrance boulevard, and opening of the thoroughfare as a 100-foot boulevard through Torrance and Lomita will be financed by gas tax funds of the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles, Darby said.

"The county is paying the share of the project in the cost of the project," the supervisor declared.

Torrance provided funds to acquire rights-of-way for the project, but the actual acquisition of the needed property was handled by the Los Angeles bureau of rights-of-way. All needed land has been acquired by one means or another, according to Darby.

When Western avenue is opened through Torrance and Lomita, it will extend from the Pacific Ocean to Los Feliz boulevard, at the southwest entrance to Griffith Park, Hollywood.

From 174th street to 246th street, the western half of West-

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**C. EARL CONNER**  
Postmaster, Civic Leader, Friend

## LAST RESPECTS PAID TO TORRANCE CIVIC LEADER

Final taps were sounded at Roosevelt Memorial Park Monday afternoon concluding the funeral services for C. Earl Conner, 59, postmaster at Torrance for nearly 15 years and one of the most widely known and most beloved of this community's citizens. A drill corps comprised of members of Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion, fired a departing salute to their former comrade-in-arms.

Prior to the brief services at the grave, hundreds of friends filled the chapel and the adjoining Sunday School room of the First Lutheran church to pay their respects. There were folks from all walks of life in the sorrowing assembly. Prominent civic and government leaders as well as folks of lesser means who always knew their friend when in need, gathered to mourn his passing.

The vested choir of the First Lutheran church, accompanied by Mrs. Nadine Bay as organist, sang a number of selections.

Soloists were Mrs. Lester Snyder and Mrs. Paul Wenske.

The altar of the church was almost hidden from view by the bank of floral pieces sent as tributes by scores of organizations and hundreds of friends. Services were conducted by Rev. Paul C. Wenske, who praised the late postmaster for his work in aiding the church of which he was a member.

Postmaster Conner died suddenly at his home, 1108 Cravens avenue, last Thursday at 12:09 a.m. from a heart attack. He

had been confined to his home for several days, following a lighter attack suffered while returning from witnessing the March of Dimes parade in Los Angeles.

A review of the late postmaster's life during his 22 years of residence in Torrance includes active leadership in practically every patriotic, civic development, and welfare organization of the community. Among his community-wide responsibilities were those of commander of both the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars local posts; president of Kiwanis Club; master of the Masonic Lodge; director and treasurer of the Torrance Community Service Association, which in the earlier days prior to the Community Chest sponsored the welfare and charitable work of the community; director and vice president of the Chamber of Commerce; local chairman of the Infantile Paralysis Fund committee and subsequent March of Dimes drives; member of the Democratic County Central Committee in 1932; city councilman beginning in 1928 and terminating in the office of City Mayor in

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## Conner's Efforts Are Reflected Throughout Entire City's Area

Postmaster C. Earl Conner, whose sudden passing last Thursday shocked the entire community, needs no stone monument to mark his accomplishments for Torrance. Throughout the entire 19 square miles of this city's far flung area are woven the works of this man who loved his home-town and its people with all his heart. And for the past 26 years that he has lived here, Earl Conner has never halted in his efforts to further the development of Torrance.

His fields of civic activity encompassed service as councilman and mayor of the municipality; commander of both the American Legion and V. F. W. posts; director and treasurer of the Torrance Community Service Association, which before the Community Chest agencies were formed carried on the charitable and welfare work of this community with outstanding success; president of the Kiwanis Club; chairman of the Infantile Paralysis Fund campaigns; and in other organiza-

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**BATMAN VISITS TORRANCE . . .** Nation's No. 1 steel-plant-builder chats with nation's top pair of crime-stoppers between scenes of a movie serial being filmed at the former Alcoa Plant. Pictured are Carl Warner, construction engineer for Columbia Steel; Johnny (Robin) Duncan; and Bob (Batman) Lowery. (Herald Photo)